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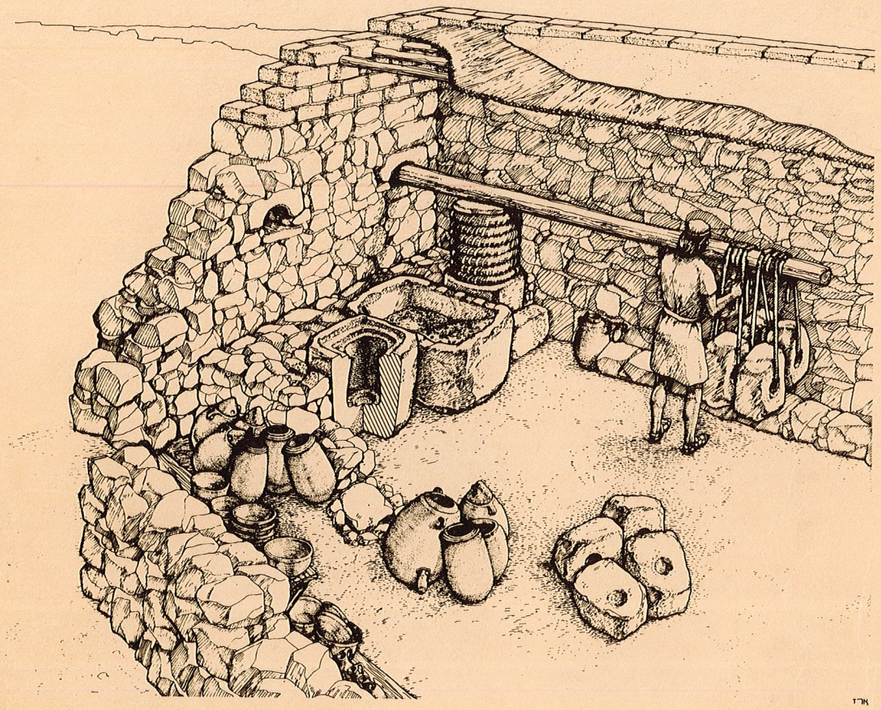

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in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B period, rather than to the Pottery Neolithic, as had been assumed in the previous season. Parts of other buildings, including one which may prove to be of the *megaron*-type were exposed in this stratum. A secondary burial of two skulls and a number of other bones was found together with a Neolithic flint blade about 3 m east of the complete *megaron*-type building. In the lowest stratum, inside one of the enclosures, a small oval installation (length 10.0 m) was uncovered, built of small stones and fragments of burnt bricks.

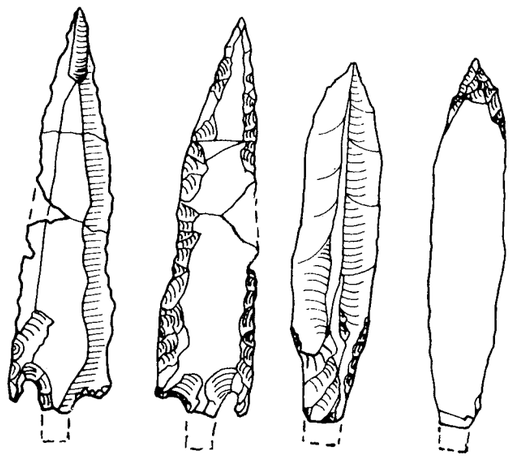
Area B (in the north). Work in this area was concentrated in a large Early Bronze I structure built on the slope of the site, in which five building phases could be distinguished (depth of stratified deposits less than 0.5 m). This season, too, a large quantity of pottery was found here. Restoration of the Early Bronze I pottery found in the first season has yielded two large pithoi with rope decoration and some red painted bowls.

(Communicated by E. Braun)

Area C. Another architectural unit was uncovered in addition to the one excavated last season. For this purpose, the excavation area was enlarged by 30 sq m to 180 sq m. The unit uncovered this season is an independent unit, rather than a lower stratum. It consists of a long and narrow space under the upper structure and a wide square space north of it. The western end of this space continues in the face of the section and has not been completely exposed. Two plastered basins were uncovered on the floor of the wider space, one built on the floor and well preserved, and the other sunk into the floor and destroyed to a great extent. The east and north ends of the structure have been damaged by later activities — pits, a wall and remains of another building. One of the pits (diam. *ca.* 2 m) was filled with small and medium-sized stones. Another structure, with massive plaster floors, began to emerge at the northeast end of the excavation area. Five meters of this floor were exposed.

The finds included tens of thousands of flint tools characteristic of the 7th millennium BCE: blade cores with opposed striking platforms (naviform), arrowheads of the Jericho and Byblus types (see drawing), finely denticulated sickle blades and axes. Shells, obsidian blades and basalt vessels were also found. A lump of green stone (raw material), two beads and 14 splinters and crumbs of green stone, which is not of local origin, indicate that this raw material was brought to the site and carved up there. Large quantities of seeds and animal bones were also collected during this season. The seeds are being studied by M. Kislev, who defined them all as pulses. L. Horowitz, who is investigating the animal bones, informed us that 90% are bones of gazelles, in contrast to what is known from other contemporary sites.

(Communicated by Y. Garfinkel)



Yiftah'el, arrowheads

ḤORVAT ZAKKUR

Agricultural installations in Ḥ. Zakkur were exposed in the summer of 1982 on behalf of the Department of Antiquities and the Yaron Field School by Z. Zuck, assisted by children from archaeological youth camps.

A rock-cut winepress was cleared in the center of the site (map ref. 1488/1722). The treading surface (3.50 × 3.00 m) slopes towards the south and a conduit leads from it to the collecting pit (2.20 × 1.10 m; depth 1.80 m). Between the pit and the treading surface are two shallow cupmarks. Three rock-cut steps were uncovered west of the collecting pit and northeast of it there are various cupmarks hewn into a rock surface. A cistern is attached to the winepress on the east. A large rock-cut cavity in the cistern contained the cover which was no longer in place.

About 60 m south of the cistern there is a rock-cut oil press (internal diam. 1.70 m, external diam. 2.15 m), surrounded by a leveled rock surface.

About 200 m to the west, another winepress was discovered on the saddle of the hill (map ref. 1487/1721). It had a square treading surface (2.70 × 2.50 m) and a rectangular collecting pit (1.20 × 0.80 m) with rounded corners. West of the winepress a small oil press was investigated. There are other cisterns in the vicinity, as well as trough burials and *arcosolia* tombs. The finds and the layout of the installations indicate a date in the Roman—Byzantine period.

(Communicated by Z. Zuck)

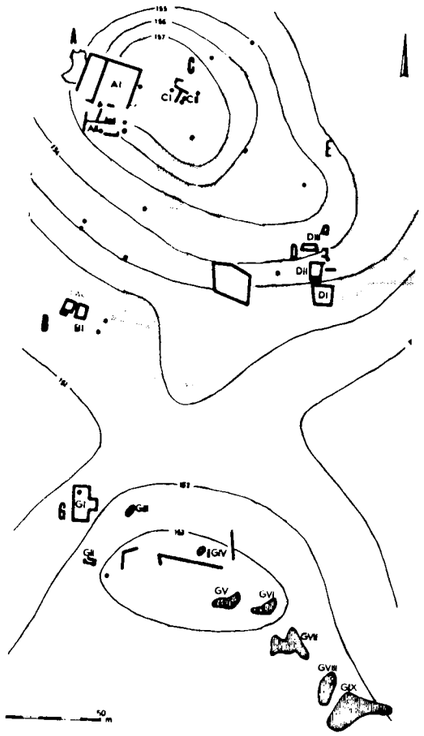
KHIRBET ZIKHRIN -- 1984

In July-October 1983 a second season of excavations was conducted at Kh. Zikhrin (see map) on behalf of the Department of Antiquities and the Archaeological Survey of Israel. The work was directed by M. Fischer from the Department of Classical Studies of Tel Aviv University, with the participation of Daphna Steiner, B. Davies, S. Giv'on, A. Franco, and Z. Ben-Naḥum (area supervisors), Dana Aberjil and Leora Vodovoz (registrars), I. Segal and I. Cohen (surveyors). A. Kindler served as numismatic adviser. Young people from the Brenner and Yarqon Field Schools took part in the excavations.

Area A (west and north parts). Rooms were uncovered on both sides of the peristyle courtyard. The entrance to one of the rooms on the east was flanked by two columns between two piers, still standing *in situ*. On the west side six rooms were excavated. The subterranean chamber discovered last year was now found to continue up the northwest edge of the site, beyond the room complex. In the first phase of settlement (1st century CE) this chamber was a burial cave with *kokhim*. These were robbed in antiquity, but lamp fragments and sherds of Roman terra sigillata were found in the debris. North of the courtyard, in an area enclosed by early walls, pottery (mainly Herodian lamps) and coins of the Second Temple period were found.

Area C (about 30 m east of Area A). Under the Ottoman and Mameluke strata (dated by coins), a square hypocaust was completely exposed, with two niches in the walls, one apsidal and the other square. The small brick pillars supported a floor of large bricks and plaster. A system of clay pipes was also uncovered. The pottery consisted of Byzantine material and a large quantity of Late Roman sherds, one of which was stamped with a cross.

The lower grinding stone of an oil press was found next to the east side of the bathhouse. In a



Kh. Zikhrin, excavation areas

nearby storeroom five store jars were found *in situ* sunk into the floor and propped up by stones and mud. This installation is dated to the Byzantine period.

Area D (southern part of the site). The following are especially noteworthy among the many remains uncovered in this industrial area — a winepress, an oil press and a residential area.

The winepress (11.5 X 10.5 m) consists of two similar production units. Each has a treading surface, an intermediate basin with sumps and collecting vats, also with sumps. One of these vats is rectangular (5.0 X 4.5 X 3.0 m) and the other round (diam. 3.5 m, depth 2.0 m). The vats had white mosaic floors and had a capacity of 40,000 liters. The winepress was built on top of a subterranean cistern of the Roman period, which has not been completely cleared.

The remains of an oil press were uncovered in the northern part of the area. A courtyard extending between the winepress and the oil press contained a well and a masonry-built plastered channel for draining rainwater. The pottery and coins collected here are from the Byzantine period. The area was occupied also in the Early Arab period, as shown by a room with a white mosaic floor built on top of the drain and by the large quantity of pottery and lamps of the Kh. Mefjer type (8th century CE), zoomorphic vessels and coins.

To sum up, the second season has shown that in the Byzantine period a central building (monastery?) stood on the hilltop, while service buildings and baths were built on the slope and

industrial installations on the margins of the site. These included four winepresses and three oil presses. The houses were built between these two levels. The dead were buried outside the settlement, and two concentrations of *arcosolia* tombs are of special interest, one east of the site and the other on the west.

(Communicated by M. Fischer)

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Oil Industry Museum

The Museum of the Oil Industry in Eretz Israel was opened in August 1984 in the "Shemen" factory at Haifa under the direction of M. Ron. The curator of the museum is D. Eitam. The museum will present the history of the oil industry in Eretz Israel in antiquity, at the beginning of mechanization and industrialization and in modern times. About 50 ancient installations have been collected from all parts of the country and are displayed in the restored "Atid" factory, the first Jewish oil factory in this country.

The Museum also presents: the technological development of the oil industry from the Chalcolithic period until the end of the 19th century; an exhibit devoted to the oil industry in biblical times; the "Wilbush" room, documenting the beginnings of the modern oil industry; and two reconstructed oil presses (in the courtyard), one of which dates from the Byzantine period.

(Communicated by D. Eitam)

Acquisition

The Department of Antiquities purchased in the summer of 1984 a small, empty ossuary bearing an inscription stating that the ossuary belonged to the granddaughter of Theophilus, the High Priest, who held office in *ca.* 37 CE. The inscription and the size of the ossuary suggest that a young, unmarried girl was buried in it.

Inspectors' Reports

Elazzam Hassan Musa was convicted on 2.12.84 in Qiryat Gat of illegal excavations in an antiquity site and sentenced to one year's imprisonment of which six months were suspended for three years, and a fine of 300,000 shekels or six months' imprisonment.

(Communicated by A. Kloner)